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*The Education and Training Inspectorate -  
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**Department of Education**  
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**Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure**



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

## **Education and Training Inspectorate**

### **Report of a Short Inspection**

**Elmgrove Primary School**  
**Belfast**

**Inspected: May 2009**



## **ELMGROVE PRIMARY SCHOOL, BELFAST, CO ANTRIM, BT5 4RS (101-0255)**

Elmgrove Primary School is situated on the Beersbridge Road in East Belfast. The enrolment has increased slightly over recent years and is currently 465. At the time of the inspection, approximately 37% of the children were entitled to free school meals and 34% of the children were on the special educational needs register.

The arrangements for the inspection included the opportunity for the parents and the teaching staff to complete a confidential questionnaire prior to the inspection. Of the 117 questionnaires issued to the parents 19% were returned to DE, including eight which contained additional written comments. Almost all of the parental questionnaires and written comments indicated very high levels of satisfaction with the school; reference was made to the hard-working, approachable and supportive staff, the wide range of experiences provided and the links with the local community. Most of the teachers completed an online questionnaire and responded positively on almost all aspects of the work of the school. They highlighted the strong sense of collegiality, the pastoral and professional support among the staff and from management, and the leadership of the Principal. The very few issues raised through the parent and teacher questionnaires were discussed with the Principal and representatives of the governors.

A group of the parents and a number of governors met with the inspection team on the first day of the inspection. Both groups expressed strong support for the school and praised highly the work of the school with parents and within the local community.

The inspectors also met with a group of year 6 children; they reported that they enjoy school, that their teachers make learning fun and that they feel safe and secure and know what to do in the event of a concern.

The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care in the school is very good. This is displayed through the development of the children's self esteem and confidence, and the very good working relationships at all levels.

The school has very good comprehensive arrangements in place for safeguarding children. These arrangements reflect the guidance issued by the relevant Department.

The school gives very good attention to promoting healthy eating and physical activity, for example, the Health Team and Star Breaks, which encourage the children to adopt healthy lifestyles.

The strengths of the school include:

- the welcoming and inclusive ethos which permeates the school;
- the strong parent partnership and the extensive links made with the local community;
- the quality of the teaching observed, most of which was good or better;

- the positive response of the children who are willing to engage with their peers and teachers;
- the good advice and guidance provided by the co-ordinators, in a supportive and collegial way, within their areas of responsibility; and
- the clear commitment of the Principal, who is well-supported by the Vice-principals, to the life and work of the school and to the local community.

The area for improvement is the need to:

- continue to develop the arrangements for self-evaluation to include the more effective use of relevant performance data and information available to inform future planning and to raise further the standards achieved by the children.

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this school is good. The school has important strengths in most of its educational and pastoral provision. The inspection has identified an area for improvement that the school has demonstrated the capacity to address. The Education and Training Inspectorate will monitor the school's progress on the area for improvement.

In this report, proportions may be described as percentages, common fractions and in more general quantitative terms. Where more general terms are used, they should be interpreted as follows:

Almost/nearly all	-	more than 90%
Most	-	75% - 90%
A majority	-	50% - 74%
A significant minority	-	30% - 49%
A minority	-	10% - 29%
Very few/a small number	-	less than 10%

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